GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5930
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005
IMPACT OF ADULTERATION
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that adulteration is rampant in food particles which leads to kidney damage, sterility, brain damage to cancer;

(b) if so, the measures initiated by the Government to check adulteration;

(c) the agencies and testing laboratories set up in the country for the purpose; and

(d) details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): As per the latest information available from various Food (Health) Authorities who are enforcing the PFA Act, 1954 in their respective States/UTs the average percentage of adulteration (on the basis of food samples lifted & tested) during the years 1998 to 2002 is 10.3. The standards of various food articles have been laid down under the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed there under. The tolerance limit for pesticides, chemicals, toxic substances and other contaminants have also been laid down under the said rules. Food articles sold in the market are required to conform to the standards laid down under the provisions of the said rules. The implementation of PFA Act and Rules is entrusted with the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/UTs. The enforcement staff of the States/UTs draws random samples of various food articles under the provisions of the said Act and Rules. Action is taken against the offenders where samples of food articles do not conform to the prescribed standards.

(c) & (d):The PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder are implemented in the States/UTs through their Food(Health)Authorities who are responsible for superintendence and enforcement of the Act/Rules in their respective States/UTs.

There are 72 laboratories in different States/UTs functioning under the control of a Public Analyst for analysis of food articles under PFA Act/Rules.

In addition there are 4 Central Food Laboratories which analyse the Food samples received from different trial courts as per their assigned jurisdiction.